

Region 3 Executive Bd. Meeting Jan. 8, 2019

DEVOTIONAL:

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God – but that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

I John 4:9-11

GRANDMA'S DRIVING

A Grandma reported: “The other day I went up to a local Christian bookstore and saw a ‘Honk if You Love Jesus’ bumper sticker. I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling church choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting, so I bought the sticker and put in on my bumper.”

So, today I was sitting in my car at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is and I didn't notice that the light had changed. It is a good thing someone else loved Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed. I found that LOTS of people love Jesus. Why, while I was sitting there, the guy behind started honking like crazy, and when he leaned out of his window and screamed, “for the love of God, GO! GO!” What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus.

Everyone started honking! I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love. There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a sunny beach...

I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. When I asked my teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant, he said that it was probably a Hawaiian good luck or something.

Well, I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out the window and him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing, why even he was enjoying this religious experience.

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the light had changed. So, I waved to all my sisters and brothers grinning, and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and I felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared, so I slowed the car down, leaned out of window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks!

Let us Pray:

Father, you are the author and originator of love. We only know love because you are love and you loved us first... And while thanking you for all things, we invite you in to our meeting today, and ask you to make us better lovers of one another. Would you give us the heart and love to proclaim your love to those who need to hear it?

Prayer:

Father, we come to you today inviting you into our meeting and thanking you for the simple, but powerful, promise that your love endures forever. You love us in our sin and rebellion against you. You love us despite the pain we inflict on others. You love us in our mess. It is that love – that selfless, self-sacrificing love, which allows us to love others. It is an overflow of your love for us that allows us to love other

people. **Help us to remember this promise as we face both good times and difficult times in our lives. We give thanks to you, Father, for you are good. Your love endures forever. Amen.**